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September Precipitation Over the Great Lakes

As a percentage of the long-term September average:

Great Lakes Basin	116%
Lake Erie (including Lake St. Clair)	125%
Lake Superior	88%
Lakes Michigan-Huron	129%

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Water Levels Decline on All Lakes Despite Rainfall

IJC Names Study Team

Periods of moderate to heavy rainfall were experienced over many areas of the Great Lakes basin during the month of September. Although daily levels on Lakes Superior, Michigan-Huron and St. Clair responded to the rainfall, monthly mean water levels on all of the Great Lakes declined from August to September. Water levels are expected to continue to decline throughout the fall and winter.

The level of Lake Superior declined by a near-average amount from August to September, falling about 2cm. Lake Superior began October about 24cm below its long-term average, but 9cm above its level at the same time last year.

The level of Lakes Michigan-Huron declined by about half its average amount from August to September, falling about 2cm. At the beginning of October, Lakes Michigan-Huron were 50 cm below their long-term average, 3cm below levels recorded one year ago and just 1 cm above Chart Datum.

Water levels on Lakes St.Clair and Erie declined by near-average amounts from August to September, falling 6cm and 11cm, respectively. Lake Ontario's level fell slightly more than average declining 19cm. At the beginning of October, Lakes St. Clair, Erie and Ontario were 30, 30 and 12cm below average. All three lakes began October several centimetres lower than they were at the same time last year.

Montréal Harbour's monthly mean water level was 5.34 m in September. This was 1.01m below the 1967-2000 average value for the month of September and it is a new record low for the month.

Study Team Named

The International Joint Commission (IJC) has appointed a six-member Upper Great Lakes Plan of Study Team to prepare a plan for reviewing the regulation of the flow of water out of Lake Superior. The Plan of Study Team was appointed after the IJC received public comment on a draft directive for the effort at a series of meetings this past summer.

The Plan of Study Team will prepare a draft Plan of Study by October 18,

Lake Ontario 115%

Note: These figures are preliminary.

September Outflows From the Great Lakes

As a percentage of the long-term September average.

Lake Superior 97%

Lake Erie 87%

Lake Huron 87%

Lake Ontario 91%

Note: These figures are preliminary.

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Summary information for "LEVEL*news*"

2001. Following public consultation on the draft, the team intends to provide a final Plan of Study to the IJC by January 11, 2002. The actual review of regulation is contingent upon funds being appropriated in the United States.

Three Public Meetings Planned

For the fall of 2001, members of the Public Interest Advisory Group, in conjunction with the International Lake Ontario - St. Lawrence River Study Board and other organizations, have organized the following three public meetings in the Lake Ontario - St. Lawrence River area.

- **October 11th, 2001**
  7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
  Apollo Middle School
  750 Maiden Lane
  Rochester, NY
  USA
- **October 18th, 2001**
  7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
  Delta Centre-Ville
  777 University Street
  Montreal, QC
  Canada
- **November 8th, 2001**
  7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
  Royal Botanical Gardens
  680 Plains Road West
  Burlington, ON
  Canada

For more information, please contact Amanda Morelli, Public Information Officer, at (613) 992-5727.

Last Edition for Seasonal Subscribers

For those of you who are on our mailing list for the WaterLevelBulletin and LEVELnews for the six months from spring to fall only, this is the last edition you will receive this year. You will automatically start receiving both publications again in May 2002. If you would like to check water level conditions between now and then, please feel free to call us at one of the telephone numbers provided in the About Level News box, or contact the Canadian Hydrographic Service at the telephone number shown on the Bulletin. If you prefer, you can access water level and related information through the OUR GREAT LAKES site.

No Longer Need Water Level Information

If you are on the year-round subscription mailing list, but have found that you only read the Water Level Bulletin and LEVELnews from spring to fall, please consider switching to a seasonal subscription. Moving to the seasonal mailing list will help us reduce costs and eliminate waste. If you would like to switch,

just let us know.

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